

If by chance we have not seen Ron himself over the years on the White House driveway or in the Senate's hearing rooms and hallways, we all surely recognize his work. His images, in the parlance of photographers, have bracketed the history of our era, from marches on Washington, to the attack on President Reagan's life—a photograph for which Ron Edmonds was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for spot news photography.

By now he has covered the White House for 28 years and captured the news in images of so many Presidents. He entered the world of photography in the day of celluloid film and concluded his career after having helped usher in the age of digital news photography.

I am grateful to have known Ron during his long career. I wish him and his family our congratulations and our best wishes.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD Ron Edmonds' farewell message to his AP associates.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RETIREMENT MESSAGE OF RON EDMONDS

July 2009

After twenty-eight years of covering the White House for the Associated Press, I have decided to retire and spend some time with my family. I know you usually hear this excuse from politicians who have just been caught with their hands in the cookie jar or with a high-priced companion; but, in this instance, spending time with my family is my true reason, ok maybe a little fishing as well.

I have had one of the most fantastic jobs in the world. It has allowed me to work with some of the greatest journalists in the world and to make images of some of the biggest events in the last thirty years. I hope that in some small way, I have helped the Associated Press maintain its prominence as the number-one news organization.

I will never forget the experiences that I have been allowed to take part in: such as, walking through the Forbidden City in China or walking around Red Square with Ronald Reagan; ducking behind an inadequate rock in the Iranian desert as Iraqi artillery shells exploded around us; or, more pleasantly, drinking lemonade with King Hussein and Queen Noor at their summer home in Aqaba, Jordan; and boating down the Nile and strolling through the Valley of the Kings in Egypt with then-Vice President Bush.

I have spent many sleepless nights mulling over this decision. It is difficult to leave my many friends here and around the world at the Associated Press. But I have great hopes for a continued bright future for the AP. I leave with no trepidation but rather with a heart full of confidence that our younger generation of talented AP photographers, such as Charles Dharapak among others, will fill the void with a better and stronger report than ever before.

I have been lucky enough to win a couple of small awards for my work. But perhaps one of the most rewarding still was when my daughter Ashley came home from elementary school one day and announced that she was so proud, because that day she was able to raise her hand and tell the teacher that the picture on the front of her Weekly Reader was taken by her dad.

I will miss all of my friends, especially those editors on the desk of the Washington

bureau, who very rarely get the credit they deserve for wading through my many images to put me on the front pages of newspapers and web pages around the world. It has always been a team effort in Washington.

Thanks to all of you for making me look good.

Regards,

RON EDMONDS,
Senior White House Photographer,
Associated Press.

COMMENDING BOVE'S RESTAURANT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the Bove family of Burlington, VT, on receiving a prestigious honor from the National Association of Specialty Food Trades. In particular, I congratulate Mark Bove, President of Bove's, and his brother Rick, on receiving the Gold Sofi Award in the Outstanding Pasta, Rice and Grain category.

Bove's Restaurant opened on Pearl Street in Burlington in 1941 and has been a local favorite for generations. Marcelle and I enjoyed many of Bove's Italian specialties while we were dating. I was a student at Saint Michael's College, and Marcelle at the Jeanne Mance School of Nursing. To this day, Bove's continues to be a favorite among college students, and many return to the restaurant as alumni during their reunion weekends.

Much to our delight, Mark Bove began bottling his family's outstanding sauces for sale in grocery stores and now also sells Bove's specialties, including meatballs and lasagna, at retail sites around our country. When I come home from a long day in the Senate, I am delighted that Marcelle and I can still enjoy a dinner from Bove's, just as we did as students years ago. We have also enjoyed sharing their great dishes with other Senators and their staff at the annual Taste of Vermont in Washington.

Once again, I congratulate the Bove family for this high honor. I ask unanimous consent to have a copy of a July 6 article from the Burlington Free Press printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, July 6, 2009]

BUSINESS MONDAY: BOVE'S WINS GOLD FOR LASAGNA

Bove's famous frozen lasagna has been awarded the National Association of Specialty Food Trades' prestigious Gold Sofi Award in the Outstanding Pasta, Rice and Grain Category.

The all-natural, hand crafted lasagna is a frozen version of the popular classic served at Bove's cafe on Pearl Street in Burlington.

A year ago Mark Bove, president and sauceboy, introduced the world to his family's recipe on The Food Network's "Throwdown with Bobby Flay," soon followed by an appearance on "The Today Show," where Bove prepared his lasagna for Hoda Kotb and Kathie Lee Gifford. The national exposure sent demand soaring.

"I was making small versions of the lasagna at the restaurant and shipping them

around the country," Bove said in a statement. "We just couldn't keep up with demand this way, which led me to produce the lasagna for retail."

COMMENDING SENATOR NORM COLEMAN

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and colleague an extraordinary public servant and tireless advocate for the people of his cherished State of Minnesota, Senator Norm Coleman. I want to express my most sincere gratitude for his longtime friendship and my enormous admiration for him and his impressive litany of accomplishments. And although I am saddened by his departure from this esteemed Chamber, I know with utmost certainty that Senator Coleman's exceptional contributions to Minnesotans and the American people will continue well into the future.

I am proud to say that Senator Coleman and I served together over his 6 remarkable years in the Senate, and I would like especially to express my immense gratitude for his pivotal role on the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship over that span of time, where I served first as chair and now as ranking member. Senator Coleman was always a reasoned and passionate voice on the committee, and his indelible impact is indisputable. Whether it was our work together on The Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005, The Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2006, or a number of other measures and issues, Senator Coleman, true to the founding tradition of the U.S. Senate, continually addressed the concerns of his constituents, while at the same time making the best decisions for this Nation.

And I especially well recall our joining forces over the winter of 2006 when natural gas and home heating oil prices had skyrocketed in Maine, Minnesota, and numerous other cold weather States, turning a crucial problem of years past into an urgent crisis that required immediate congressional attention. With the level of funding allocated in the budget, states could not maintain the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, an initiative I have long championed which provides vital funding to our country's low-income families and elderly.

Recognizing both the plight of Minnesotans and all affected Americans from the beginning of this crisis, Senator Coleman and I, among others, battled to shed light on this emergency early by calling for the passage of a bill to provide additional LIHEAP funding to states. Senator Coleman was an instrumental catalyst in our successful effort to pass this bill to the benefit of countless Minnesotans, Mainers, and other untold Americans across this land. And for that, I will be forever grateful!

With a career in public service of more than 30 years, begun in 1976 when he was chief prosecutor for the Minnesota Attorney General's office, Senator Coleman possessed an unfailing determination to advocate on behalf of the people of Minnesota that has never faltered or waned. Prosecuting cases around the State while further developing a growing concern for community issues, Senator Coleman was eventually named Minnesota State solicitor general. And his outstanding trajectory of leadership was just taking off, for it was then—in 1993—that Norm became mayor of St. Paul, during which time, with his hallmark optimism, he steered the course of the capital city through a transformational revitalization effort.

And so, it came as no surprise that Norm Coleman, after he was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, hit the ground running. And let me say from the outset, Senator Coleman's was a welcomed voice in an era of increasing partisanship, especially at a time when ideology has been held in greater value by many of our Nation's elected officials than service to the American people, when too often the slogans and sound bytes of campaigning never stop, and the governing all too frequently never begins, and where public disenchantment with politics runs high. Senator Coleman's desire to look beyond this regrettable status quo, embracing instead the long-held tenets of collaboration and cooperation, could not have been more central as our chamber sought to enact laws to genuinely improve the lives of Americans.

As I reflect on my friend's illustrious tenure in the Senate, I cannot help but recall in instance after instance on imperative matters of far-reaching consequence how Senator Coleman was able to transcend party politics and seek solutions and results for the betterment of his State and country. For example, Senator Coleman, along with Senators Durbin and Lincoln, was a leading proponent, supporting The Small Business Health Options Program Act or The SHOP Act which would once and for all finally level the playing field for American small businesses and the self-employed and allow them to pool together nationally to receive a host of new, affordable, and quality coverage options.

Norm, like the rest of us, understood all too well that health insurance market reform and coverage policies in The SHOP Act must be included in broader health reform legislation. We will miss his voice as the health care debate moves forward and as we strive to build a consensus on landmark, health care legislation. But make no mistake, Senator Coleman was integral in helping lay the foundation for achieving meaningful and sustainable health care reform.

Placing his country and constituents above political expediency, Senator Coleman and I joined together in support of passage and eventual enact-

ment of The Fair Equity Act, bipartisan legislation aimed at increasing pay equity in America and protecting victims of wage discrimination into law. We have labored to extend key, renewable energy tax credits to expand the indispensable State Children's Health Insurance Program or S-CHIP. We stood side by side in the fight to allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, and we joined together to help block proposed cuts in Medicaid. I want to thank Norm, who has truly been a stalwart soldier in arms, for his resolve and will on a cross-section of issues that have defined his term in the Senate as a model of governance that ought to be more prevalent.

In that vein, I cannot convey enough what a privilege it was to serve in the Republican Main Street Partnership with Senator Coleman—an organization that my husband, Jock, formerly chaired. Founded in 1998 to promote thoughtful leadership in the Republican Party and to join with individuals, organizations, and institutions that share centrist values, the partnership has unfortunately witnessed a decline in our ranks in recent years. But the message and impact of the organization are intrinsically connected to our capacity to truly achieve bipartisanship and garner results on behalf of those who elected us, and Senator Coleman embodied that ethos with integrity and distinction.

In fact, Senator Coleman characterized the Main Street's message well when he said, "this isn't about marching to a single tune. This is about being able to listen and work with like-minded colleagues, bring those perspectives, and hopefully play a role in the resolution of things that bottom line are good for the people of Minnesota." Well, his actions not only aided Minnesotans, but also Mainers and Americans of every stripe and background across this great land.

And yet, despite all of his exemplary achievements, his greatest accomplishment is undeniably his wonderful family and the love and devotion he has for his wife Laurie, and their two children, Jacob and Sarah. So, it is with a profound honor that I join with his family, and his many friends, in praising Norm for his tireless stewardship of the common good and phenomenal commitment to public service, and for a tenure that enfolds his legacy into the rich, longstanding Senate tradition of Minnesota.

And so to my colleague and good friend, Norm, let me say, you have been a shining example of bipartisanship and comity that transcends politics, and you will be sorely missed. As you embark on this next chapter and as you consider your next endeavors be they public or private, I urge you, in the immortal words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in appreciation and admiration of Senator Norm Coleman.

Norm has been a faithful public servant to the people of Minnesota, a principled leader, and a good friend. He made a difference here in Washington, and I feel privileged to have served with him in the U.S. Senate.

Norm and Laurie arrived in Washington at the same time as Sandy and me. We experienced many of the same challenges and adjustments that freshman Senators face, and we encouraged each other by facing them together. Norm and I found we shared a common approach to solving problems, and partnered to advance legislation whenever we could.

Norm said his best ideas came from the people of Minnesota, and they can be proud of what he achieved in Washington. Norm supported conservation programs to protect his State's lakes, rivers, and woodlands. He had a real heart for children, especially those suffering from cancer or waiting to be adopted into loving homes. He was a champion of private-sector initiatives in alternative energy, including clean coal, wind power, and biomass technologies. Norm exposed fraud at the United Nations, waste in the Medicare Program, and tax evasion by defense contractors. Norm voted to put John Roberts and Samuel Alito on the U.S. Supreme Court. Norm consistently supported our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and he believed in their mission.

Some of my strongest memories of Norm were formed during our trip to Iraq in January of 2008, about a year after President Bush announced our surge of forces there. Norm had joined many Senators in supporting the surge, despite the political risk that support entailed. He understood that the strategy and leadership of GEN David Petraeus was America's best chance to succeed in Iraq.

Norm and I, along with Senator Johnny Isakson, visited Baghdad together. We had dinner with General Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, and discussed how we could facilitate political reconciliation in Iraq. We met with General Ray Odierno to discuss the new mission of population security, as well as the progress they were seeing in reducing violence and U.S. casualties. We toured a marketplace in western Baghdad, where U.S. and Iraqi forces had helped bring back shopkeepers and their customers by driving out insurgents and terrorists.

During our visit, I got to see the Norm Coleman that Minnesotans know very well. At Maverick Security Station in Baghdad, I saw Norm honor troops who hailed from the Twin Cities and throughout his State. At a meeting with Iraqi civilian leaders, I saw him offer encouragement to Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds working to build a free and democratic nation in the heart of the Middle East. And wherever we traveled, I saw his easygoing manner, his wry sense of humor, and his appreciation of the honor bestowed on him by his fellow Minnesotans.

Norm ran a tough race for reelection last fall, a race that lasted far longer

than the Minnesota winter. He mounted a legal challenge based on a clear principle: no Minnesotan should be disenfranchised. As chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, I was proud to support Norm as he pursued his case in the courts. And once the courts had spoken, I respected the grace with which he conceded the race, and the optimism he has shown for his own future, and that of our country.

Norm accomplished much in Washington, but I think he remains proudest of what he achieved closer to home. After Minnesota's hockey team moved to my home state of Texas back in 1993, Mayor Norm Coleman of St. Paul led the effort to bring the National Hockey League back to the Twin Cities. Since the first puck dropped in 2000, the Minnesota Wild have sold out every game they have played, and every fan owes a debt of thanks to Norm Coleman.

I too am thankful for Norm Coleman, because he set a good example for all of us. He never let public service go to his head. He always put his faith and family first. He fought hard to keep his seat, but never failed to keep his cool.

I wish Norm and Laurie the very best, as their journey together continues.

PROTECTING TENANTS AT FORECLOSURE IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for too long, tenants have been the innocent victims of the foreclosure crisis. Countless tenants across the country have been forced to leave their homes simply because their landlords were unable to pay their mortgages. Too often, these tenants had no idea that the property was even under foreclosure until the authorities arrived at their door to inform them that they must vacate the property immediately.

I was pleased to work with Senator KERRY to include the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 in the recently enacted Helping Families Save their Homes Act. This new law protects tenants facing evictions due to foreclosure by ensuring they can remain in their homes for the length of the lease or, at the least, receive sufficient notice and time to relocate their families and lives to a new home. The full Senate approved the bill on May 6, 2009, and President Obama signed it into law on May 20, 2009.

These protections are so important that my colleague Senator KERRY and I want to ensure that families and mortgage holders know their rights and obligations under the law.

Under the new law, all bona fide tenants who began renting prior to transfer of title by foreclosure of their rental property must be given at least 90 days' notice before being required to vacate the property. In addition, these bona fide tenants are allowed to remain in place for the remainder of any leases entered into prior to the transfer of title by foreclosure. These leases

may be terminated earlier only if the property is transferred to someone who intends to reside in the property and only if the tenants are given at least 90 days' notice of the fact of such sale. Successors in interest to properties with section 8 housing choice voucher tenants automatically assume the obligations of the former owner under the housing assistance payments contract.

These basic protections are the law for tenants in every State, unless States have laws or practices that provide greater protections. I want to ask Senator KERRY, the original author of the act, if I have correctly expressed the intent of this legislation.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I was pleased to work with Senator DODD to enact this legislation to help tenants affected by foreclosures.

No one in the Senate has worked harder to fight against the scourge of foreclosures than Chairman DODD. As a former member of the Senate Banking Committee, I know Chairman DODD has tirelessly fought to assist low and moderate-income families and to help tenants who need protections from foreclosures or unscrupulous landlords. Without his efforts, families in Connecticut and across the Nation would not have access to critically needed protections and many more American families would be facing foreclosure.

I agree with Chairman DODD that it is important that persons and entities acquiring properties by foreclosure follow the law, and that tenant families obtain the benefits the law was intended to provide.

I also agree with Chairman DODD's statement of the intent of the legislation. As the chairman stated, the law was intended to provide all bona fide tenants, who began renting prior to transfer of title by foreclosure of their rental property, be given at least 90 days' notice before being required to vacate the property. In addition, these bona fide tenants are allowed to remain in place for the remainder of any leases entered into prior to the transfer of title by foreclosure. These leases may be terminated earlier only if the property is transferred to someone who intends to reside in the property and only if the tenants are given at least 90 days' notice of the fact of such sale. Successors in interest to properties with section 8 housing choice voucher tenants automatically assume the obligations of the former owner under the Housing Assistance Payments contract.

Both the Federal Reserve and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have acted quickly to issue notifications to the entities that they regulate describing the law in the same way. Their notifications stated how regulated institutions are expected to comply with the terms of the act. These regulatory actions are crucial for the proper implementation of the act because foreclosing entities, who often wind up owning the properties after the foreclosure, have a responsi-

bility to obey the law. Families in these precarious circumstances should not be forced individually to assert their rights under the law.

Mr. DODD. I agree with Senator KERRY. Again, I thank the Senator for bringing the original legislation forward and working with me to enact it. I look forward to working with Senator KERRY and all my colleagues to ensure that families' rights under the law are known and protected.

DROUGHT RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I speak on behalf of the farmers and ranchers of Texas. Like millions of Americans in other States, Texans love the land. From the hill country to the river valleys—from the panhandle to the gulf coast—our land helps define who we are.

And for many Texans, the land is their livelihood. One in seven jobs in our State is tied to agriculture. We lead the Nation in several crop and livestock industries—including the production of cattle and cotton. Texas farmers and ranchers help feed and clothe Americans in every State—and in dozens of countries around the world.

Our farmers and ranchers are tough people—and they are seeing tough times. Central and south Texas is experiencing some of the driest conditions in the country today. Seventy counties in our State are experiencing extreme or exceptional drought—the two worst classifications made by the USDA. These areas represent 42.5 million acres—about 25 percent of Texas—and nearly equal to the total land area of New England.

The drought has severely impacted Texas farmers and ranchers. According to one recent study, economic losses will reach \$3.6 billion by the end of this year—a little less than \$1 billion in livestock losses—and the rest in crop losses.

A few weeks ago, I met with some ranchers and farmers in San Angelo, TX. They shared with me how drought conditions were devastating production—even as the recession weakened demand. They also asked me a question: Where was the money Washington promised to help them through these tough times?

Their question is the same question I am asking today: Where is the money Congress authorized last year for the Supplemental Revenue Assurance Program?

The SURE Program was included in the farm bill we passed in June of 2008. It received broad bipartisan support. It created a trust fund of about \$3 billion a year to help farmers and ranchers during tough times.

Yet despite becoming law more than a year ago, the SURE Program has still not been implemented by the USDA. Not a single farmer or rancher has received any assistance from the trust fund so far. No payments had even been